MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): If the Government realise that the M. B. & B. S. is a higher examination, I want to know the exact reason why the Government should place that and the L. M. & S. examination on the same level. That is my question.

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Government consider both L. M. & S. and M. B. & B. S. as adequate qualifications for appointment in the Medical Department, and do not give any preference to M. B. & B. S. Why Government have not given any preference to the M. B. & B. S., I cannot say now. It must be on the recommendation of the Darbar Physician.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): The question I raise is whether, especially in view of the large number of the M. B. & B. S. candidates now available, they should not be preferred to L.M.&S. candidates, if it is accepted that the M. B. & B. S. is a higher examination than the L. M. & S.

PRESIDENT: Government may consider the question.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): May I know whether M. D. will be preferred to M. B. & B S.?

PRESIDENT: That is going still higher up.

Statement, by caste, of Midwives and Nurses.

147. ***MR. K. PADMANABHAN** (*Chirayinkil I*): Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a caste-war list of Midwives and Nurses in Government service?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): A *statement furnishing the required information is laid on the table.

Pazhanchira in the Chirayinkil taluk.

148. ***MR. K. PADMANABHAN** (*Chirayinkil I*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to inform the House whether they have received petitions from the people of Melkadakkavoor, Chirayinkil *pakuthi*, Chirayinkil taluk, praying for the repair and maintenance of an irrigation tank called Pazhanchira (പഴഞ്ചിറ) in Survey No. 2127 of the said *pakuthi*?

(*b*) If the answer to part (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to give the date of the earliest of such petitions?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) 9-4-1104.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): What action has been taken in the matter?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*): Plans and estimates have been called for from the Division Officer.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): Have the plans and estimates come into the hands of the Chief Engineer?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*): I said just now that plans and estimates have been called for from the Division Officer.

* *Vide* Appendix III.

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MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): Will the Chief Engineer please see that the matter is expedited?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*): The Chief Engineer does not let anything hang too long in his office.

The Chalakkal Canal.

149. ✻**MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI** (*Changanachery I*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) what length of the Chalakkal Canal has been already finished?

(*b*) the length that still remains;

(*c*) the sum that has been already spent upon it;

(*d*) how much more will be required to complete it;

(*e*) when the work was begun;

(*f*) when it was stopped;

(*g*) why it was stopped;

(*h*) whether the Government have abandoned the scheme, and

(*i*) if not, when it will be begun again?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*): (*a*) About 1,500 feet.

(*b*) 4,000 feet.

(*c*) Rs. 14,812.

(*d*) About Rs. 30,000.

(*e*) In 1089.

(*f*) In 1090.

(*g*) In view of the heavy expenditure involved.

(*h*) No.

(*i*) It is under trial to get the rock in the canal blasted by private agency and after this trial has been completed the question of further work will be considered.

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Changanachery I*). Have the Government received any petition from the people of the locality?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*): Yes.

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Changanachery I*): Has any action been taken on the petition?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*): The point is this. When the canal was being cut, considerable quantities of rock were met with. As it was considered too expensive to blast and remove this rock, it was proposed that the inhabitants of the locality should quarry the rock free of cost, and for this purpose Government have cut a small canal to enable *Vallams* to be taken to the spot to remove the stone quarried.

Recruitment of Assistant Secretaries to Government.

150. ✻**MR. K. SANKARAN** (*Kartikapalli I*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether any orders have been recently passed by the Government regarding the recruitment of Assistant Secretaries to Government, if so, what those orders are and the principles upon which such orders have been passed?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The answer is in the negative.

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